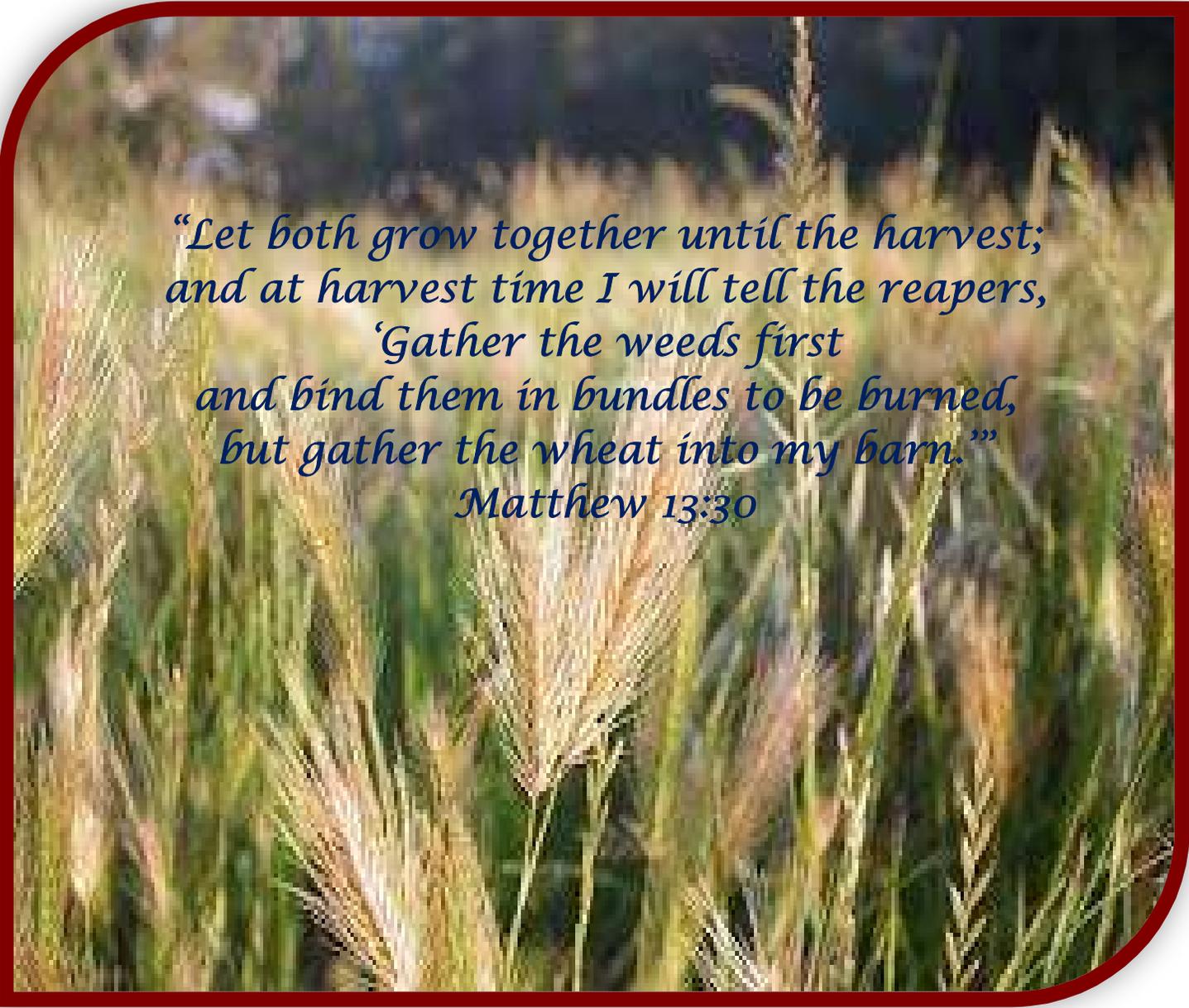


Welcome
To Crestholme Presbyterian Church



*“Let both grow together until the harvest;
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,
‘Gather the weeds first
and bind them in bundles to be burned,
but gather the wheat into my barn.’”
Matthew 13:30*

**A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE HOME
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, JULY 19, 2020**

**This morning we all worship in our own homes,
but are together in spirit with our Crestholme Family**

Worship is a response to the Word of God. It is not something we initiate on our own. Therefore, hear the Word of the Lord, “This IS the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

PRELUDE “Open My Eyes” #2
<http://www.crestholmepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/02-Open-My-Eyes.mp3>
(place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

WELCOME CHILDREN OF THE LORD!

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Majesty”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZN5QBkYd7I> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Read out loud by yourself or with a loved one

YOU: Lord, You are a shield around me.
LOVED ONE: You are my glory and the lifter of my head.
YOU: From the Lord comes deliverance.
LOVED ONE: May Your blessing be on Your people.
ALL: Hear us, Lord, as we worship You.

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

Thank You Father for being with us today and allowing us to worship You. Hear our praise, our worship, and our prayers. As we lift our voices to You, turn Your face toward us, and bless us. Amen

Opening Hymn “When Morning Guilds the Sky”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT7Kh88CrL4> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

Prayer of Confession:

Patient and persistent God, we come polished and presentable to this comfortable room in our house as if we knew what to expect, as if this were a safe and predictable place, as if we could simply observe. Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations. In the mystery of your love, overshadow us. Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts until we bloom and spill with your passion to serve in a world that is wasting.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness:

Hear the GOOD NEWS!

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of God dwells in you. If you hear nothing else today, hear these words: there is no condemnation. In the name of Jesus you are forgiven.

GLORIA PATRI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. Amen.

BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 139

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ps+139&version=NIV>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+13%3A24-30%2C+36-43&version=NIV>

Children's Time Wheat and the Weeds

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mUz4w_nWQU (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

SERMON

“Back to Farming”

Larry Sears

In this week's lectionary readings, we again return to the farmer and His planting seeds. This time there is a twist. The seed may fall on good ground, but bad seed is planted by an enemy to cause problems. Now the question becomes how do we deal with the new issue that the Lord has presented? Jesus explains the parable to

His disciples, so we know what He is saying. How can we interpret it in today's world?

Some scholars believe the bad seed is from a plant called bearded darnel. It is known in the biblical terms as "tares". It has no virtues. When growing it wraps around the roots of other plants and steals nutrients and water causing the other plant to either die or not develop fully. It looks like wheat until it bears seed. This plant was the marijuana of the Bible times. In a large dose it is deadly for humans, in smaller doses it becomes an intoxicant. It was mixed with alcohol to produce a buzz or hallucinations. It is still around today.

The tares of the parable represent people who are not of the family of God. Those who would disrupt the church and turn people from following the Lord. We all think we know people like that. When the servants asked "should we pull up the weeds," that act represents the world's view of dealing with some problems. We have this. We can take care of this. We'll just get 'er done. We don't need to wait on the Lord, we'll have this taken care of and leave the Lord to deal with bigger issues. 'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them.' Just wait, I'll have the harvesters take care of it.

If we look at the Lord's response, we see some things about the Lord's personality. We see His wonderful patience and His just judgement. We think we know the difference between the tares and the wheat. It has been said that we look at things through lenses that taint our view. Divorce can cause one to question what love is. Some say we shouldn't talk about God the Father because some have had abusive relationships with their fathers, and they would be turned off by that reference. Abuse causes mistrust. The Lord says be patient, and let the tares and the wheat grow together. This patience recalls some scriptures.

The Psalms have several references to God, Who is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love (Ps 86:15, Ps 103:8, Ps 145:8).

When revealing Himself to Moses, *Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished;* (Exodus 34:5-7).

Jonah complained when God saved Nineveh. *“He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity” (Jonah 4:2).*

This is one reason why God will wait until the “end time” to pluck up the tares and the wheat. *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).*

The other reason He will wait until the end time to judge the wheat and the tares is that He has angels that will look and decide who is wheat and who are tares. They will be just in their decisions, using discernment and guidance of the Holy Spirit. If we look at Jonah we see what might happen if we try to judge those around us based on our experiences and the lenses we look through. Jonah believed that Nineveh and the Assyrians are enemies so wicked that they should not be spared for any reason. They should pay for what they did. He fled from God because God wanted him to preach repentance to Nineveh. When he finally arrived in Nineveh, he quietly preached, they heard and repented. God relented in what He was going to do to Nineveh. Jonah’s response? *He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.* God is just like that, and I believe that is why the Lord wants to wait, so we don’t mess things up.

What can we learn? Let the Lord do the judging. We spend time trying to decide who should or shouldn’t be in heaven and it is really not our call. I believe one of the reasons God tells us to pray for one another and pray for our enemies also is to allow Him entry into ALL our relationships, so He can do His redemptive work in all of us. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can love our neighbors and not judge them. Amen

HYMN

“Take Thou Our Minds Dear Lord”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxGUTTP5lc> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

THIS WE BELIEVE:
(From the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light: true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from the heavens, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; And arose again on the third day according to the Scriptures; And ascended into the heavens, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life; Who proceedeth from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets. In One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the age to come. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please, continue to support the life and work of Crestholme. You can mail your tithes pledges and offerings to...

CPC
PO Box 23919.
SA TX 78223-0901

Or you can save them and gather them until we meet again.
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice.

DOXOLOGY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8TkUuKIh84> (place your cursor over the link.
Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Accept these gifts, the fruits of our labor, and our lives the gift

of your grace. Bless them. Multiply them. Enlarge your kingdom within us, through us, and around us. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Here, in your own words, pray and intercede for the body of Christ, the governments of this world, the poor, the marginalized, the lost, and others. Pray also for your family and for yourself. Follow this with the Lord's Prayer.

CLOSING HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvYSoGP7pwM> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

BENEDICTION:

[With our hands lifted unto the Lord and a heart full of grace and love, receive this blessing in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyByrkJoi7c>

Praise be to God. Amen

We have temporarily closed our congregation's campus — no group activities, no church programs, no shared-space partners' programs, no Food Pantry or Clothes Closet... to honor the White House's Guidelines and the City's Emergency Directives and to protect our vulnerable volunteers and members and neighbors during these perilous COVID-19 days.

But that does not mean that we've... gone away.

How can we support you? Your prayer life? Your every-day needs and cares?

Yes, "Social distance!" But, NO, not "Emotional distance!" Help us connect and care!

There's an active "hug train" — our phone tree. Would you make a call or two? Would you like to be called? Chat with Larry at: larryrsears@gmail.com or call 210-240-7609.

There are lots of "little things" that are quite important for us — for someone — to continue to do. Got an hour? Some of our members could use a hand with... shopping, "essential errands," every-day little things. Got a hand?

Blessings!